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From Thursday June 10. to Monday June 14. 1697.

At the Council Chamber in *Whitehall*, the Tenth of *June*, 1697.

PRESENT,

Their Excellencies the Lords Justices in Council.

WHereas an Act was made and passed in the last Session of Parliament, Intituled, An Act for continuing several former Acts for Punishing Officers and Soldiers who shall Mutiny, or Desert His Majesty's Service, and for Punishing False Musters, and for Payment of Quarters for one Year longer. By one of which said continued Acts made at a Session held in the 7th and 8th Years of His Majesty's Reign, it is amongst other things Enacted, That if any Person shall Harbour, Conceal or Assist any Deserter from his Majesty's Service, knowing him to be such, or shall knowingly Buy or Exchange or otherwise receive any Arms, Clothes, Caps, or other Furniture belonging to the King from any Deserter, upon any Account whatsoever, the Person so Offending shall forfeit for every such Offence 5 l. and being Convicted thereof at the General or Quarter Sessions, the same shall be levied by Distress, by Warrant under the Hands of Two or more Justices of the Peace, upon the Goods and Chattels of the Offenders; the One Moyety thereof to be paid to the Informer by whose means such Deserter shall be Apprehended, and the other Moyety to the Officer to whom such Deserter did belong. Now for the more effectual Discovery of such Deserters, and for preventing for the future the Sale or Exchange of any of His Majesty's Arms, Clothes, Caps, or other Furniture, and for Punishing such Persons who shall Harbour, Conceal or Assist such Deserters, It is this day Ordered by their Excellencies in Council, That all Justices of the Peace, and other Chief Magistrates of any City, Town, or Place, do use their utmost Endeavours for the Discovering and Apprehending such Soldiers who have Deserted, or hereafter shall Desert from His Majesty's Service; and when any such Deserter shall be Apprehended and brought before them, to commit such Deserter to the next Goal, there to remain until he be thence delivered by due Course of Law. And likewise that they the said Justices or other Chief Magistrates do take especial Care of the Prosecution of such Persons who shall any ways knowingly Harbour, Conceal or Assist any such Deserter, or Buy or Exchange, or otherwise receive any Arms, Clothes, or other Furniture belonging to His Majesty from any Deserter.

RICH. COLINGE.

Messina, May 6. N. S. On the 4th Instant arrived here a Vessel belonging to *Ragusa* in 36 days from *Smirna*; the Commander whereof reports, That they were making great Preparations at *Constantinople* for the Recovery of *Asaf* from the *Moscovites*, having provided 6 Ships, 18 Galleys, 80 Galiots, and a great number of other Vessels, to Transport by the *Black-Sea*, the Forces intended for this Service; which would very much weaken their Armies against the *Germans* and *Venetians*: This Vessel met in her Voyage the *Panther* Privateer, who had taken a French Merchant Ship and Tartane, and sent them to *Canea*.

Vienna, June 5. 'Tis expected the next Letters from *Croatia* will bring an account that *Bihats* is Besieged: The Imperial Forces are drawing together at the place appointed for their Rendezvous in *Hungary*; and the Elector of *Saxony* will shortly repair thither to Command the Army, though it's thought he may first go for a few days to *Dresden*. The young Duke of *Lorraine* went hence two days ago for *Germany*, to pass the Campaign in the Confederate Army on the *Rhine*. The last advices from *Warsaw* say, the Gentry arrived daily in great numbers; That there would be above 80000 Men on Horseback at the Election; and that by all appearance Prince *James* would have the prevailing Interest.

Francfort, June 14. The Forces of the Alleys, who have been Encamped in several Bodies, are now on their march in order to join together near *Eppingen*; and Prince *Lewis* of *Baden* is expected to morrow at *Heilbron* in his way to the Army. The Mareschal *de Choiseul* was according to our last advice, come with greatest part of the French Army to a place called *Openheim*, and 'twas said, he would move nearer to *Mentz*, to destroy the Corn and Forage in those Parts.

Cologne, June 14. The rest of the Lunenburg Troops passed the *Rhine* this day at *Keyserwaert* and other Places; The Forces of *Hesse* and *Munster* have done the like; and they all march towards *Brabant*. The Palatin Troops have passed the River *Lahn* in their march towards the *Upper Rhine*. The Marquis *de Harcourt*, who lay with a small Body of French Troops near the *Moselle*, marches towards the *Meuse*.

Hamburgh, June 14. The Danish Forces Invested the *Holmer* Fort on the 8th Instant, and the King of *Denmark* being afterwards arrived in the Camp, sent an Officer to Summon the Governor to Surrender the Place, who answered, That he had received Orders from the Duke of *Holstein* his Master to defend it, and would do his Duty; whereupon the *Danes* raised several Batteries of Cannon and Mortars, and began to Fire upon the said Fort; which they still continue to attack. In the mean time an Accommodation is endeavoured by the Ministers of several Princes; in which they have made so good a Progress, that it's believed the same will be speedily concluded. We are told, the King of *Denmark* is intended to return this day towards *Copenhagen*, leaving General *Wedel* to command his Forces.

Paris, June 14. The last Letters from *Catalonia* tell us, There was a very numerous Garison in *Barcelona*, amounting to between 15 and 20000 Men, as well of regulated Troops as Miquelets; That the French Forces had posted themselves round the Place, and 'twas believed the Trenches would be opened the 7th or 8th of this Month; The French Galleys arrived the 4th Instant at *Palamos*, being obliged by bad Weather to put into that Port, and would proceed with the first Opportunity for *Barcelona*; where the Count *d'Estrees* was already arrived with 8 or 9 Men of War from *Thoulon*. They write from *Flanders*, That the French Armies will continue near *Ath*, till that Place be put in a Condition of Defence. The Letters from *Germany* say, Mareschal *Choiseul* was still Encamped at *Lambersheim*; and that the Marquis *de Harcourt* lay with the Troops under his Command between *Treves* and *Montroyal*.

Brussells, June 16. Lieutenant General *Coehorn* and Major General *Dorff* arrived here on Thursday last, and the next morning went to view and mark out the Ground, where 'tis intended to raise some new Works for the Security of this Place; Our Armies, as also the French, continue in the same Camps mentioned in our last; The latter have sent back their heavy Cannon and Mortars to *Mons* and *Tournay*, and the Mareschal *de Bouffliers* has sent a Detachment of 9 Regiments of Horse and Dragoons towards the *Meuse*, to join the Marquis *de Harcourt*, who is coming that way with 7000 Men from the *Moselle*.

From His Majesty's Camp at Promelles, *June* 17. The French Armies are still Encamped at *Lessines*, *Roeux*, and *Grammont*; only have made some small Detachments, which past through *Charleroy* towards the *Meuse*; They have likewise sent their heavy Cannon to *Mons*. The King has sent to view the Ground about *Anderlech*, from whence the French Bombarded *Brussells* about 2 years ago,

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